

**AMENDMENTS****In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a memory unit which stores a shared folder management table which contains information about a plurality of shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses having being associated with the shared folders, wherein each of said shared folders stores image data therein and is shared by [[a]] the plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network;

a search controller which executes searching of said shared folders;

a comparator which compares shared folders of the present search with those of the last search;

an updating controller which updates said states of the information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table based on the result of the comparison made by said comparator; and

a display unit which displays updated states of the information processing apparatuses.

2. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a document reader which reads a document and outputs image data; and

a communication controller which transmits the image data to said shared folders.

3. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein,

said states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table include a power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus;

said updated controller updates the power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus based on the result of the comparison made by said comparator; and

said display unit displays updated states of information processing apparatuses in a manner according to the updated power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said search controller executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a first predetermined time.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said updating controller changes the power ON/OFF state of an information processing apparatus into OFF state when a shared folder, which is stored in said shared folder management table associated with the information processing apparatus, was found by the last search but is not found by the present search.

6. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a selection controller which allows selection of a destination to which image data is transmitted,

wherein, when said destination is selected, said display unit displays the updated states of the information processing apparatuses.

7-13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for information processing which is used to handle information about a plurality of information processing apparatuses interconnected by a network, said method comprising:

searching a plurality of shared folders stored in a memory unit which stores a shared folder management table which ~~contains~~ includes information about the shared folders and ~~states of a~~ plurality of information about shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses having the shared folders, wherein each of said shared folders stores image data therein and is shared by [[a]] the plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network;

comparing shared folders obtained by [[the]] a present search with those of the last a previous search;

updating said states of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table based on [[the]] a result of the comparison; and

displaying the states of the information processing apparatuses in a manner according to the updated states thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, further comprising:

reading a document by a document reader and output the image data; and  
transmitting image data to said shared folders.

16. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, wherein, as the result of searching said shared folders, when states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table include the power of ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus, the power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus is updated and displayed on the display unit in a manner according to the updated power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus.

17. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, wherein shared folder searching is executed at intervals of first predetermined time.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, wherein, the power ON/OFF state of the information processing apparatus is changed into the OFF state, when a shared folder was found by the last search but is not found by the present search.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, further comprising:

selecting a destination to which image data is transmitted,

wherein, when said destination is selected, said display displays the states of the information processing apparatuses.

20-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said search controller executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a first predetermined time when said destination is not selected, and executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a second predetermined time shorter than the first predetermined time when said destination is selected.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for information processing according to claim 19, wherein said shared folder searching is executed at intervals of a first predetermined time when said destination is not selected, and said shared folder searching is executed at the intervals of a second predetermined time shorter than the first predetermined time when said destination is selected.